

## Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /061 W

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R 201305Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6595

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1524

PASS COMMERCE, EXIM, OPIC, TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EINV, ETRD, CG

SUBJECT: PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR - POSSIBLE IMPENDING GOZ ABOUT-FACE

REF: KINSHASA 906 AND PREVIOUS

1. PAT MITCHELL, PARTNER OF LAW FIRM DUNCAN, ALLEN AND MITCHELL AND LAWYER FOR WARNER-LAMBERT HERE, SAYS WARNER-LAMBERT HAS INFORMED HIM THAT THE FIVE POTENTIALLY PRIVILEGED PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES (WARNER-LAMBERT, CIBA-GEIGY, SPECIA, HOECHST AND BAYER) MET FEB 19 WITH MIN HEALTH NGWETE. NGWETE INFORMED THEM THAT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS IMMINENT REVERSING ENTIRE NATIONALIZATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR, RETURNING WAREHOUSES TO CONTROL OF OWNERS, STOCKS TO FORMER OWNERS AND PAYING COMPENSATION FOR STOCKS OR OTHER PROPERTIES CONSUMED OR LOST DURING THE PERIOD OF STATE CONTROL. THE AS YET ONLY PARTIALLY FORMED "DCMP COMMERCIAL" WOULD BE DISSOLVED AND AT LEAST THE FIVE COMPANIES MENTIONED ABOVE, IF NOT OTHERS, WOULD BE PERMITTED TO RESUME COMMERCIAL PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORTATION ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS. THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKELY BE LIMITED TO THE GOZ'S PHARMACOPEIA.

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2. MITCHELL SAID WARNER-LAMBERT DID NOT RAISE WITH

NGWETE QUESTION OF RETURN OF ITS PIAF CHAN  
OF PHARMACIES.

3. COMMENT: ON THE HUMANITARIAN SIDE, IN RECENT  
MONTHS STORIES OF INCREASING HARDSHIP, SICKNESS AND  
EVEN DEATHS DUE TO LACK OF MEDICATION HAVE ABOUNDED. ON  
THE COMMERICAL SIDE, OUTSTANDING DEBTS AND DISPUTES  
BETWEEN FORMER IMPORTERS, FORMER AND CURRENT RETAILERS  
AND THE GOZ HAVE CAUSED COUNTLESS DIFFICULTIES.  
FURTHERMORE, THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS CARRIED AN  
INHERENT THREAT OF SPILLING OVER INTO THE DOMESTIC  
POLITICAL ARENA, WHILE THE COMMERCIAL CARRIED SIMILAR  
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE OF ZAIRE'S  
BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THESE  
PROBLEMS, IF IT COMES TO PASS, SHOULD BE WELCOME IN  
ALL QUARTERS. END COMMENT.  
WALKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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